

HOW'S THIS FOR A 4-H CLUB?  
by  
Bob Fowler

HV1709  
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AMERICAN PRINTING  
HOUSE FOR THE BLIND**



←PUPS GO TO COLLEGE after 4-H kids give them up. Here Vanessa, dog shown in picture below, learns to pause before obstacles.

HV1709  
\$ 600.00  
*How's this for a*

*Raising guide-dogs for the blind costs these kids money, yet they like it*



Photos: Joe Munroe

↑  
**SAYING GOOD-BYE** after a year together isn't easy for Alice Richmond of Santa Clara County, Calif. She knows, though, that her dog, Vanessa, will be loved and needed by her new blind owner.

→  
**GETTING THEIR PUPS.** These 4-H'ers will keep their charges a year, grow them into husky animals, teach simple commands. Then they turn them over for final training—where farm-reared dogs far excel kennel-reared.





—a master phone in the house and an extension phone in the barn, shop or elsewhere.

Each phone has a special loudspeaker-microphone and a button which lets you make intercom calls or regular phone calls. Extra phones and loudspeakers are available if you need them.

Monthly cost of the new systems hasn't been fully worked out, but Bell estimates that it will be in the \$9 to \$12 range, plus your base rate, per month.

**Installation fee** will run about \$25 and will include all overhead wiring. If you want the wire or cables in trenches, you'll be expected to furnish the tractor and labor for the digging.

The extra expense per month and the installation are deductible on income tax, reports Repschlaeger, who has been testing the units for two years.

"Is this new service worth the cost?" I asked him as he greased his forage harvester. Just then his wife called over the loudspeaker that a neighbor wanted to know if he'd be able to help bale hay that afternoon. Without putting down the grease gun, he told her he'd help.

"At first, the cost seems pretty high," Repschlaeger answered. "But you see how handy it is. Most of my calls seem to come while I'm choring."

A Bell Telephone survey of Midwestern farmers backs him up. It shows that 64% of the farmers usually have to be called to the phone while the other party waits. And 38% missed incoming calls because they had no extension.

"Another advantage of this new system is that the loudspeaker in the barnlot can monitor all the noises after dark if you want it to," says Repschlaeger. "One night the cows broke out, but we heard the noise and stopped them before they got in the sorghum field."

"It's handy to call the men to dinner," adds Mrs. Repschlaeger. "And they can tell me if they'll be late."

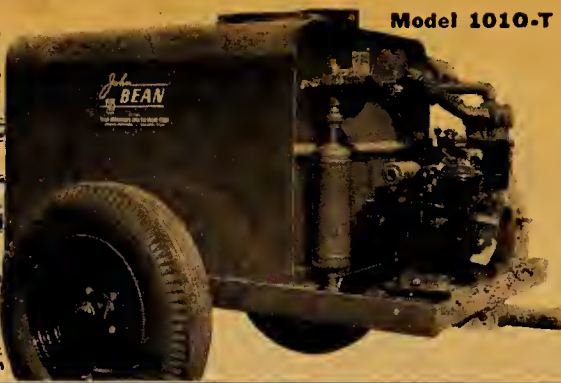
Mrs. Harold Lewin, Thurston County, Neb., uses their system to keep track of her three-year-old daughter when she's outdoors. "If she doesn't answer when I call her, I go out to see what she's up to!" says Mrs. Lewin.

Another feature of the new system is that it rings through the loudspeaker when the whole family is outside.

"We actually heard the phone ring when we were a half-mile from the house this spring," says Repschlaeger. "And I can talk into the loudspeaker from at least 200 yards."

I believe him. I stood in the center of the barnlot and visited with Mrs. Repschlaeger. She asked me to lower my voice—I was coming in too loud!

"We've had extension phones and bells in barnlots before," says H. F. Ostberg, general marketing manager of Northwestern Bell Telephone Co., Omaha, Neb. "But it's these new two-way loudspeakers that make this system such a big improvement." —Ovid Bay



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# 4-H club?

**I**F DICK BALDY, a husky California boy, was a little proud, you couldn't blame him.

Dick belongs to a strange kind of 4-H club whose members raise dogs, then give them to Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. It's an organization near San Rafael that trains the dogs for three months, then matches them up with blind owners who get them free.

I sat next to Dick as we watched his dog, Franz, whom he hadn't seen for three months, respond to "sit," "stay," "fetch," and "heel." Those were commands Dick taught him. Franz didn't miss a signal!

Then came the advanced exercises, taught by professional trainers, when the dog led his new master—a blind man from New Orleans—through gates, up curbs and across streets. Not a single slip! It was thrilling to watch.

The year before, Dick had picked up the dog as a 13-week-old pup from the Guide Dogs center. The pup had the appetite of a harvest hand, gobbled up horsemeat to the tune of \$50. But Dick says you don't begrudge one of the family, as Franz had become.

After nine months, Franz was full-grown, well-mannered and ready for "college." In June, Dick left him at the center.

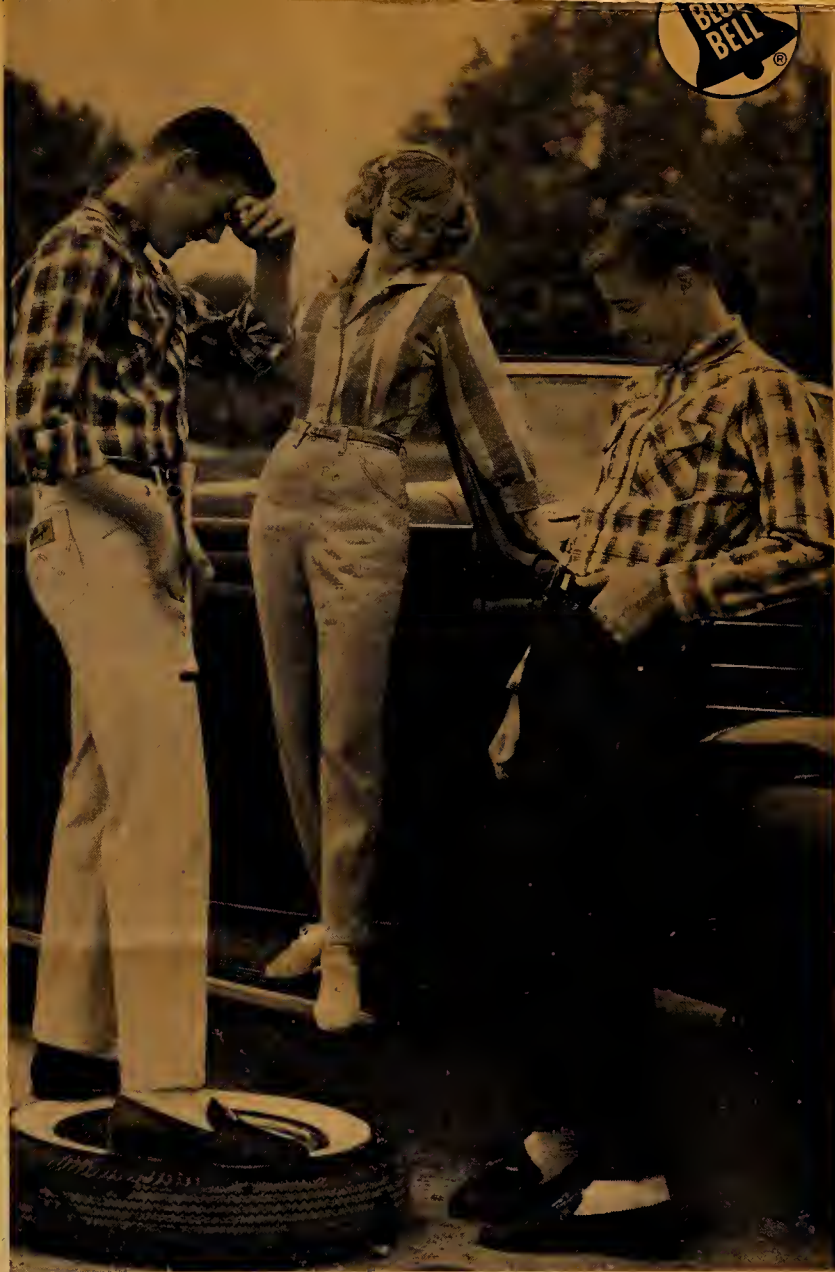
I wish Dick might have seen what happened when his dog entered a room where two newly arrived blind students sat hunched on their beds. Franz stopped, sniffed the air, then padded confidently over to one of them, a 60-year-old New Orleans man only recently blinded. Franz rested his muzzle on the man's knee and thumped his tail against the bed, telegraphing his approval to the blind man.

Unlike most dogs, Franz had picked his own master! The man returned home, confident, infinitely happier and more independent.

Can you see why I say this 4-H project is one concerned with the second "H"—the heart?

In the last dozen years, 4-H'ers in Dick's club (members live in Nevada, Oregon and California) have raised nearly a thousand dogs. New Jersey 4-H'ers raise around 80 a year, too.

Why not grow dogs in commercial kennels? Because eight or nine out of every ten kennel-reared dogs flunk out. "They haven't learned how to get along with people," says Larry Rees, director



The Kenny-Porter family: Robert and Ronald Kenny, cousin Janie Porter, of Closter, N. J.



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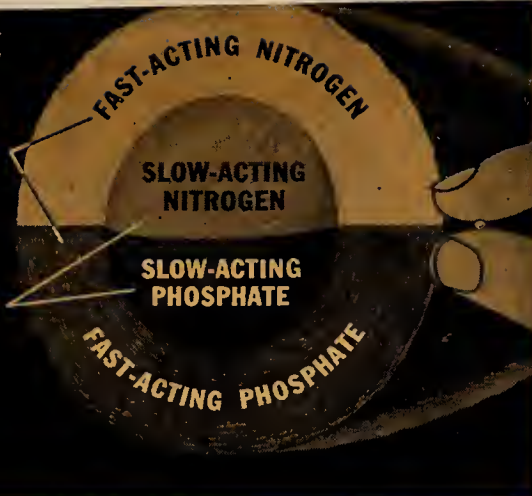
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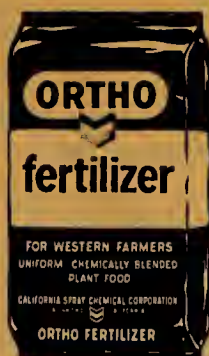
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Last year, nearly all passed their exams.

There's a story in every dog and its young owner. Take Happy, a Chesapeake, and his owner, Tessa Bowles of Orange County, Calif. Tessa was disappointed when she first saw him; she was sure he should have been a German Shepherd. He ate \$78 worth of food, which, with shots, made him cost \$94.

Then a surprise: The Lions Club in Fullerton handed her a check for the whole amount! And still another surprise: Happy won top honors in the obedience contest for dogs his age. Could you blame Tessa for a few tears when she handed Happy's leash to the kennel master?

A fully-trained guide dog would cost \$1,700—if you were to buy him. Yet the blind person who gets him pays nothing because the \$180,000 budget for Guide Dogs for the Blind comes entirely from donations.

It takes a smart pup to make a guide dog—one that can leave cats alone, one that won't panic when a vehicle rolls past him—to name just two of the tests. Full grown, he can't be more than 26 inches high at the shoulders, or he won't fit his master. He must even be smart enough to disobey his master's orders if they might lead him into danger. All working guide dogs are altered sexually.

No guide dog is ever sold, and no blind person need go without one for lack of money, so don't fall for the beggar's sign, "Help buy me a dog."

If you'd like to help the guide dog center nearest you by raising puppies, write your local or State Association for the Blind, or the American Foundation for the Blind, 15 West 16th Street, New York 11, N.Y. Find out if any of the 10 centers in the U.S. need dogs. Once in a great while, a guide dog is abused or used for begging and in that case, he is returned to the center.

Not all blind people want or are temperamentally fitted to use a dog. But for those who can use one, the dog becomes an important part of their lives.

The blind man from New Orleans wrote Dick Baldy a letter. "With Franz," he said, "I'm able to go anywhere again, by bus or by foot. It's like turning on the headlights of a car on a dark night."

—Bob Fowler



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